

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 706**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla**

February 25, 2015

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An act to add Chapter 5.6 (commencing with Section 8400) to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to California AmeriCorps – STEM.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 706, as introduced, Bonilla. California AmeriCorps – STEM.

Under existing law, by executive order, CaliforniaVolunteers is established in the office of the Governor and is charged with overseeing programs and initiatives for service and volunteerism.

This bill would establish California AmeriCorps – STEM in the state government, to be administered by CaliforniaVolunteers and operate under existing federal AmeriCorps program guidelines. This bill would require that California AmeriCorps – STEM members be determined through an application process for eligible college graduates with student loan debt, as specified. This bill would allow a nonprofit corporation, as specified, to apply, individually or in partnership with a corporation or individual interested in the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, to CaliforniaVolunteers, through a competitive request for proposal process, to host one or more California AmeriCorps – STEM members. This bill would provide that the purpose of California AmeriCorp – STEM is to increase STEM education programs to prepare the next generation for jobs in the STEM fields. This bill would authorize CaliforniaVolunteers to solicit and accept private funding to help supplement the costs of California AmeriCorps – STEM.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 5.6 (commencing with Section 8400) is added to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to read:

CHAPTER 5.6. CALIFORNIA AMERICORPS – STEM

8400. (a) California AmeriCorps – STEM is hereby established to be administered by California Volunteers, as established by Executive Order S-24-06. California AmeriCorps – STEM shall operate under the existing federal AmeriCorps program guidelines.

(b) California AmeriCorps – STEM members shall be selected through an application process. Eligibility will be based on the qualifications required for the federal AmeriCorps members, as of January 1, 2015, and all of the following:

(1) The applicant shall have an associate or a baccalaureate degree.

(2) The applicant shall provide proof of incurred student loan debt.

(3) The applicant shall be 21 years of age or older.

(4) The applicant shall provide proof that he or she lives in California.

(c) A nonprofit corporation that is exempt from federal income taxation as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code may apply, individually or in partnership with a corporation or individual interested in the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, to California Volunteers, through a competitive request for proposal process, to host one or more California AmeriCorps – STEM members. The purpose of California AmeriCorps – STEM is to bring more STEM education programs into California schools, after school programs, and neighborhood and regional centers for children to prepare the next generation for jobs in the STEM fields.

(d) California Volunteers is authorized to solicit and accept private funding to help supplement the costs of California AmeriCorps – STEM. These private funding sources may include, but are not limited to, foundations, corporate funding, crowd

- 1 funding, donation drives, or any other sources of private investment
- 2 that may be available.

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